

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7190
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
LOAN ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN BIHAR
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has formulated any scheme to provide loan assistance to the paddy, wheat, onion growers of Bihar as these crops were largely damaged by pests in the State;
- (b) if so, whether a delegation from RBI has held talk with the State Government officials in Bihar regarding probable relief measures for affected farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which RBI/Government has given assistance to the farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATH) :

(a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that they have not received any information regarding crop damage by pests in Bihar. However, there are standing guidelines of RBI to banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities without awaiting instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines envisage conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans, rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments, provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital, relaxation in security and margin norms, etc.